



Mrs. Claudia M. Wills

January 23, 1928 - February 15, 2018

Mrs. Claudia Mae Wills passed away Thursday, February 15, 2018 at the age of 90 years.

She was born January 23, 1928 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the daughter of John Henry and Azzilee Gray.

Claudia graduated from Industrial High School and played on the girls basketball team. She accepted Christ at an early age. She was a resident of Saginaw, MI and a long time member of Tabernacle Baptist Church where she was a member of the Missionary Society, served 45 years as an Usher and also served on the Trustee Board.

Claudia retired from the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service. In 1965 she was the first woman to coach a knot hole boys baseball team at Hoyt Park known as the Wills Dodgers and was three time division champions. She also coached a girls pigtail softball team. In 1968 she was chosen to serve as one of the Model City Director's. On January 13, 1969 she was the first and only woman to serve on a five member team of the Housing Commission. She was presented a plaque by the "Ebonettes" teenage girls from First Ward Community Center as Outstanding Citizen of 1969 during her "This is your Life Program" for community service. She was a volunteer coordinator of the free breakfast program to serve needy children. She was a volunteer for the 4H Club. She worked as a community aide for the

Community Action Committee. Claudia Wills of MSU Expanded Nutrition Program worked with the Salvation Army to start a new drive to ensure gifts for the needy by developing a screening process for toys and grocery certificates. In 1999 she was presented with a Certificate of Outstanding Leadership of our Community by the Mayor Gary Loster. In 2003 she was presented a Certificate of Recognition for many years of volunteer service by First Ward Community Center. In 2007 during the Celebration of African American History program at Delta College she was awarded a Senior Citizen Day Certificate of Honor and Appreciation for her contributions made in the Saginaw Community. Her motto was "Be a Community-Involver Don't Be A Community-Dodger"!

Claudia enjoyed cooking, fishing, reading, watching and playing sports and spending time with her family! She spent time participating in the Old Timers Fitness Club at First Ward Community Center. Ms. Wills was a very outspoken and outgoing woman with a great sense of humor! She was loving, and very giving to others. Claudia was very kind-hearted and known as a mother figure to many!

Claudia Wills is survived by her children, Azzilee O'Neal, Larry (Connie) Gray, Virginia Arnett, Betty Wills Palmer, Claude (Genita) Wills, Johnny (Laura Jean) Haywood; daughter-in-law, Renee McCall; grandchildren, Sam Donald, Charles Donald, John (Karen) McCall Jr., Latasha (Mercer) McCall-Johnson, Eric (Nakeyia) Wills, Charissee Koger, Isiahia Davis, Allison (Bruce) Baker, Ralph Arnett, Crystal Gray, Chester (Kamika) Palmer, DeAnthony Arnett, Alex Jackson, James Tatum, a host of other grandchildren; great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; nieces, Linda Gray & Estelle Gray of Long Island, New York, Gloria Jean Wills Cameron of Birmingham, AL; nephews, Malcolm Hopkins of Birmingham, AL., Lorenzo (Sharon) Hopkins of Tuscaloosa, AL and a host of other nieces and nephews; sister-in-law, Lillie Hopkins; special cousins, Kenny Anthony, Ernestine Burley; special friends, Yommie Warren

and Adline Helton; god-children, Arthur Rodgers, John Rodgers, Cheryl Moore, Lenora Rush and Lesley Kaiser.

Claudia was preceded in death by her parents, John Henry Gray, Azzilee and Walter Harrell; her son, John McCall; daughter, Patricia Davis; brother, Jimmy Gray; grandchildren, Derwin O'Neal and Darrell McDaniel, Jr.

The family would like to express special thanks to caregivers, Chelise Bond, Carolyn Barnes, and Marchell Holmes; Region 7, Home Health Care Team, JMB Medical Supply and Covenant Hospital.

Funeral service will take place 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 810 Cathay Street, Saginaw, MI 48601. Pastor Blake D. Strozier, Host Pastor and Bishop Larry Camel will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery, 3210 South Washington Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48601. Friends may call at the Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 North Jefferson Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607 on Friday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 N. Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 754-0481
evansbrownes@gmail.com
<https://www.evansbrownesfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Tabernacle Baptist Church
810 Cathay Street
Saginaw, MI 48601

Tribute Wall



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Browne's Mortuary - March 12, 2018 at 04:41 PM



“ *She was a true blessing to many, let us all remember to be a blessing. I said a prayer for the family now and the days ahead. Hold on to the sweet memories of Mrs. Claudia to help heal your hurt. ~ Trevor, Beverly, & Trevor, Jr. - Culpepper*



Beverly Culpepper - March 02, 2018 at 07:25 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills.*



March 01, 2018 at 09:37 PM

RH

“ Rita Hall lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Rita Hall - March 01, 2018 at 07:46 PM



“ Elizabeth Hudspeth lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Elizabeth Hudspeth - February 28, 2018 at 07:07 PM

AR

“ Alice Rainey-Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Alice Rainey-Wilson - February 28, 2018 at 06:16 PM

MR

“ Malcolm And Velma Roach lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Malcolm and Velma Roach - February 27, 2018 at 08:36 PM

RE

“ RIP CLAUDIA. My prayers to my family at this time to lean on God for strength. He will see us through.
Love Ressie (Rhoda daughter)



REENA - February 27, 2018 at 01:33 PM

LT

“ Lucinda Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Lucinda Taylor - February 24, 2018 at 07:39 PM

GF

“ Griffith/Sangster Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Griffith/Sangster Family - February 23, 2018 at 07:07 AM

LV

“ Linda McClain Veasley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Linda McClain Veasley - February 22, 2018 at 04:33 PM



“ *Lela Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Lela Johnson - February 22, 2018 at 11:10 AM



“ *Sorry for your loss' may GOD bless each of you' MRS. Wills and I spend many years at Tabernacle and the usher board I remmber visiting her home. She was a very nice lady to work with. She has a new address now peace*

Lela Johnson - February 22, 2018 at 11:09 AM



“ *Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds & Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds & Family - February 22, 2018 at 05:32 AM



“ *Karen White-Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Karen White-Jones - February 20, 2018 at 06:43 PM



“ Cynthia Reed-Tillman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Cynthia Reed-Tillman - February 20, 2018 at 05:58 PM

BH

“ Barbara Hollis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Barbara Hollis - February 20, 2018 at 12:41 PM

NH

“ Nora, Barbara, Deborah And Elaine Hollis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Nora, Barbara, Deborah and Elaine Hollis - February 20, 2018 at 12:40 PM

AT

“ Annette Turner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Annette Turner - February 20, 2018 at 12:01 PM

YH

“ Yvonne Herndon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Yvonne Herndon - February 19, 2018 at 03:33 PM

YH

Mrs Wills and my mom which is Queen Esther Herndon who past away just a few weeks ago was very good friends in the projects my mom told us that Mrs Wills taught her a lot and that she was Very smart lady

Yvonne Herndon - February 19, 2018 at 03:39 PM

TH

“ Condolences to the Wills family



Tara Henderson - February 19, 2018 at 10:16 AM

YH

Mrs wills and my mom which is Queen Herndon who just pass weeks ago were real good friends in the projects my mother learn a lot Fromm Mrs will she was such a lovely lady and very very smart to.

Yvonne Herndon - February 19, 2018 at 03:32 PM

MC

“ Myrtle Collier lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Myrtle Collier - February 18, 2018 at 06:59 PM

VW

“ Vicky Washington lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Vicky Washington - February 18, 2018 at 06:20 PM



“ Granny Will's you are gone but never forgotten love you RIP

Lisa Brewer - February 18, 2018 at 02:16 PM



“ Lisa Brewer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Lisa Brewer - February 18, 2018 at 02:11 PM

EF

“ Eugene Blair And Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills



Eugene Blair and Family - February 18, 2018 at 01:50 PM

MF

“ *Mosella Reed And Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Mosella Reed and Family - February 18, 2018 at 01:50 PM



“ *R.I.H.P., Momma Wills. My earnest condolences to the entire family.*



Joselyn Jordan - February 18, 2018 at 04:49 AM

TA

“ *Tommy & Rhonda Henderson Atkins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Tommy & Rhonda Henderson Atkins - February 18, 2018 at 12:36 AM

CP

“ *Cynthia Parham-Daison lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Cynthia Parham-Daison - February 18, 2018 at 12:21 AM

LM

“ *Loudean Moultrie sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Loudean Moultrie - February 17, 2018 at 10:26 PM

LP

“ *Larry Polk sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Larry Polk - February 17, 2018 at 08:45 PM

AF

“ *Adline Helton And Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Adline Helton and family - February 17, 2018 at 03:59 PM

CJ

“ *Carolyn Jarrett-Mason lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Carolyn Jarrett-Mason - February 17, 2018 at 11:48 AM

CJ

Fond memories when Ms. Claudia provided mentoring to me as I was building my career. PEACE & LOVE FAMILY

Carolyn Jarrett-Mason - February 17, 2018 at 11:56 AM

JW

“ *Joanie Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Joanie Williams - February 17, 2018 at 02:40 AM

AL

“ *Annie Lowery lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Annie Lowery - February 16, 2018 at 01:23 PM

GP

“ *Geraldine Parris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Claudia M. Wills*



Geraldine Parris - February 16, 2018 at 10:33 AM